

Deer Resistant Plants

Protection Against Deer Browsing

Deer can be lovely to look at in the wild, but when they are dining on your most valuable landscape plants they can raise the blood pressure of even the most ardent nature lover. No List of deer resistant plants is 100% trustworthy. Their tastes change with the seasonal changes. As new plant growth hardens off in the growing season, the tissue becomes tough and inedible. Come winter, deer will resort to eating plants that have fat content in stems and bark.

There are many products on the market that claim to discourage and repel deer from eating desirable plants, and many of them quite well when used according to label directions. However, the only foolproof, 100% guarantee of a deer free landscape is to install appropriate fencing to keep the deer out. This is costly, and in many landscapes, not a viable option.

Use the following list to find suggestions for plants that seem to be less palatable to deer. These plants have been observed to be less likely to be damaged by deer, but none of them are immune to deer browsing. Under the right circumstances, deer will eat almost any plant.

Plants Observed to Resist Deer Browsing

Groundcovers

Bugleweed

Canada Wild Ginger

Bishop's hat/Barrenwort

Sweet Woodruff

Pachysandra

Periwinkle

Ajuga reptans

Asarum canadense

Epimedium sp.

Galium odoratum

Pachysandra sp.

Vinca minor



Click above to watch as Carrie discusses Buck Rub

Trees

Bottlebrush Buckeye

Black Alder

River Birch

Paper Birch

Musclewood

Northern Catalpa

Katsura

Eastern Redbud

Beech

Ginkgo

Thornless Honeylocust

Kentucky Coffeetree

Tuliptree

Magnolia

Ironwood

Swamp White Oak

Bur Oak

Japanese Tree Lilac

Aesculus parviflora

Alnus glutinosa

Betula nigra

Betula papyrifera

Carpinus caroliniana

Catalpa speciosa

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

Cercis canadensis

Fagus sp.

Ginkgo biloba

Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis

Gymnocladus dioica

Liriodendron tulipifera

Magnolia sp.

Ostrya virginiana

Quercus bicolor

Quercus macrocarpa

Syringa reticulata

Conifers

Concolor/White Fir

Juniper

Tamarack

Dawn Redwood

Norway Spruce

White Spruce

Dwarf Alberta Spruce

Colorado Blue Spruce

Mugo Pine

Austrian Pine

Scots Pine

Bald Cypress

Giant Arborvitae

Abies concolor

Juniperus sp.

Larix laricina

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Picea abies

Picea glauca

Picea glauca 'Conica'

Picea pungens f. glauca

Pinus mugo

Pinus nigra

Pinus sylvestris

Taxodium distichum

Thuja plicata

We Plan-You Plant (DIY)

Offering the expertise of our Horticulturists, this custom design service is provided at no cost to you.

This is the best do-it-yourself program if you're a homeowner looking to design and plant your own project. Perhaps you want to add curb appeal to the front foundation? How about a beautiful mixed perennial bed in the empty corner of your yard? This program is designed for people who enjoy do-it-yourself projects and can also be tailored to your capabilities.



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Plants Observed to Resist Deer Browsing

Shrubs

Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia sp.</i>
Summersweet Clethra	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
Carolina Allspice	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>
White Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>
American Filbert	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Smokebush	<i>Cotinus sp.</i>
Carol Mackie Daphne	<i>Daphne x burkwoodii</i> 'Carol Mackie'
Dwarf Bushhoneysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia sp.</i>
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamalis virginiana</i>
Rose of Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum sp.</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>
Japanese Kerria	<i>Kerria japonica</i>
Northern Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>
Potentilla	<i>Potentilla sp.</i>
Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>
Rugosa Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>
Spirea	<i>Spirea sp.</i>
Common Snowberry	<i>Symphocarpos albus</i>
Indiancurrant Coralberry	<i>Symphocarpos orbiculatus</i>
Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>

Broadleaf Evergreens

Boxwood	<i>Buxus sp.</i>
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>

Ornamental Grasses

Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Feather Reed Grass	<i>Calamagrostis sp.</i>
Sedge	<i>Carex sp.</i>
Northern Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium altifolium</i>
Oat Grass	<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Hystrix patula</i>
Maiden Grass	<i>Miscanthus sp.</i>
Purple Moor Grass	<i>Molinia sp.</i>
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Native Bluegrass	<i>Poa palustris</i>
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachrium scorparium</i>
Moor Grass	<i>Sesleria sp.</i>
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i>

Vines

American Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>
Honeysuckle Vine	<i>Lonicera x heckrottii</i>
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>
Carriion Flower	<i>Smilax herbacea</i>

Perennials

Yarrow	<i>Achillea sp.</i>
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum sp.</i>
Anise-Hyssop	<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>
Ornamental Onion	<i>Allium sp.</i>
Willow Amsonia	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>
Anemone	<i>Anemone sp.</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>
Red Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe sp.</i>
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia sp.</i>
Pig squeak	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>
Siberian Bugloss	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>
Sedge	<i>Carex sp.</i>
Black Snakeroot	<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis sp.</i>
Pinks	<i>Dianthus sp.</i>
Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra sp.</i>
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>
Queen of the Prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i> 'Venusta'
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>
Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>
Lenten Rose/Hellebore	<i>Helleborus sp.</i>
Coralbells	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>
Ligularia	<i>Ligularia sp.</i>
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus sp.</i>
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>
Beebalm	<i>Monarda sp.</i>
Catmint	<i>Nepeta sp.</i>
Peony	<i>Paeonia sp.</i>
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum sp.</i>
Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria sp.</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia sp.</i>
Perennial Salvia	<i>Saliva x superba</i>
Sedum	<i>Sedum sp.</i>
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sp.</i>
Spider Wort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>
Toad Lily	<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>